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## Proceedings of the Club

ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 9, 1900

Vice-President Allen was in the chair, 33 persons present.

Three resignations were accepted, viz : Fredk. H. Comstock, 119 West 86th Street ; Frank G. Hills, Canarsie, South Brooklyn, N. Y.; Henry W. Sackett, Tribune Building, New York.

Miscellaneous business included, 1st, The acceptance of an invitation from the American Geographical Society to send three delegates to unite in a commemorative meeting in honor of its late President, Charles P. Daly, the meeting to take place January 22d. The Club elected as such delegates, Dr. T. F. Allen, Dr. H. H. Rusby and Dr. N. L. Britton ; 2d, The election to fill the one vacancy still existing in the Board of Associate Editors, of Dr. D. T. MacDougal as such Associate Editor ; 3d, The conditional acceptance by the Club for a Decoration Day excursion of an invitation tendered by Dr. T. F. Allen to visit his country house at Litchfield, Conn., where his herbarium and the flora of Bantam Lake are among the attractions offered.

The committee appointed to consider a program for a Torrey Day in connection with the A. A. A. S. meeting here next summer reported through the Secretary, the following proposed program :

Historical Sketch of Botany in New York City, Dr. T. F. Allen; Personal Reminiscences of Dr. Torrey, Professor T. C. Porter ; Work of Dr. Torrey as a Botanist with Bibliography, Dr. N. L. Britton ; Exhibition of Botanical Material and of Letters Illustrative of Dr. Torrey's work, Miss A. M. Vail ; Work of the Torrey Botanical Club, Professor Edward S. Burgess. Other features are under consideration.

Special business consisted, 1st, of Annual Reports. That of the Treasurer, Mr. Maturin L. Delafield, Jr., reported a cash balance in hand.

The Secretary, Professor Edward S. Burgess, reported an average attendance of 31 at the 15 meetings held during the year, one death, a present active membership of 237, corresponding

membership 142, honorary membership 3, total membership 382. Among the 18 scientific papers presented 5 had been accompanied by lantern views; 4 papers related to ferns. Nine illustrative exhibits of photographs, plates and flower paintings, etc., had been held.

The Editor, Professor L. M. Underwood, reported the regular monthly issue of the *Bulletin*, forming the largest volume published to date, including 650 pages besides 23 heliotype plates and 38 figures in the text, and including 65 articles representing 39 authors. The publication of the *Memoirs* has been carried on with unusual activity, including Dr. M. A. Howe's monograph on the Californian Hepaticae (208 pages, 35 plates), Mr. Tracy E. Hazen's "Life History of *Sphaerella lacustris*" (*Haematococcus pluvialis*) (33 pages, 2 colored plates) and the beginning of Professor F. E. Lloyd's Comparative Embryology of the Rubiaceae (21 pages, 4 plates).

Miss Marie L. Sanial, as Secretary of the Excursion Committee, reported 38 excursions held, with the new feature of excursions for bryological and other collections in December, at one of which 15 persons were present.

The annual election was then held, and the previous board of officers were elected.

The scientific paper of the evening was by Professor Francis E. Lloyd, on "The Relationship of certain Rubiaceae," forming part of an investigation in the embryology of that order now in course of printing among the *Memoirs* of the Torrey Club. The ground of relationship considered was the ovary, which is classed as inferior, but developmentally proves to be a receptacle hollowed out. The flower seems to be derived from one with more separate corolla-lobes. The Rubiaceae are very polymorphic externally, and there is the greater need of discovery of stable internal characters. Such characters for the ovary of the Stellatae were discussed in detail. That of the common buttonbush, *Cephalanthus*, was alluded to as possessing certain ovary characters in form and relatively rapid and prolonged growth of the basal partition which accord most significantly with the unusually compressed position of the ovary.

Discussion followed regarding the passages of pollen-tube through tissues rather than loosely in the cavity of the ovary. In

some Rubiaceae, said Professor Lloyd, these tubes seem stimulated by contact with the enlarged collar-cells of the funiculus and appear to owe their guidance into the micropyle to such stimulus. Dr. MacDougal remarked upon recent conclusions that pollen-tubes show negative reactions to oxygen, but positive to sugars, and to albuminoid substances in the ovary or near the embryo-sac.

EDWARD S. BURGESS,  
*Secretary.*

31 JANUARY, 1900.

Vice-President Rusby in the chair ; 31 persons present. In the absence of the Secretary, L. M. Underwood was called to act *pro tem.*

Six persons who had been duly proposed for membership were elected, as follows :

Miss Violetta S. White, 560 Fifth Avenue.

Miss Louisa Bruckman, 1022 Lexington Avenue.

Miss Elise W. Kornmann, 1030 Park Avenue.

Miss Ida Clendenin, 67 Hancock Street, Brooklyn.

Professor A. W. Evans, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

Dr. H. S. Washington, Locust, Monmouth County, N. J.

The program of the evening consisted of a paper on the "Cultivation of Palms," by Mr. Henry A. Siebrecht. After a general discussion of the palms as a botanical group and the various types represented in tropical regions, a full and interesting account was given of their cultivation in conservatories and as house plants ; valuable suggestions were given for their treatment and care in the household. The characters of various species suitable for cultivation indoors were given, especially of the genera *Cocos*, *Kentia*, *Phoenix*, *Areca*, *Caryota*, *Licuala* and *Thrinax*, of which fine illustrations were shown from the writer's splendid nurseries. Among these were *Cocos Weddelliana*, *Phoenix Canariensis*, *P. rupicola*, *Areca lutescens*, and *Licuala grandis*.

An account of Mr. Siebrecht's extensive nurseries in the tropical regions of Trinidad was afterwards given by request of some of the members.

Discussion followed by Mr. Henshaw, Mr. Lighthipe and Dr. Rusby.

L. M. UNDERWOOD,  
*Secretary pro tem.*